Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 05394 290319Z

11
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01

DRC-01 /164 W
---------- 097761
R 290300Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1746
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5394

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CI, AS, NZ, CA
SUBJECT: GOA REACTION TO COUP IN CHILE

1. JULIO RIETHMULLER, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, CALLED AT MY OFFICE SEPTEMBER 29 TO EXPLAIN EVENTS IN HIS HOME COUNTRY. HE STAUNCHLY MAINTAINED THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR CHILE EXCEPT A MILITARY TAKEOVER, DESCRIBING AT GREAT LENGTH THE UTTER CHAOS BROUGHT ON BY THE ALLENDE REGIME AND THE MIR PLOT TO TAKE OVER THE NAVY, POTEMKIN-STYLE. DURING HIS TRIP IN JULY ON HOME LEAVE TO CHILE, HE WAS ALREADY MAKING PLANS TO GET HIS FAMILY OUT OF CHILE, INCLUDING A DAUGHTER WHO HAD BEEN WORKING IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND A SON IN HIS LAST YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY AT SANTIAGO.

2. RIETHMULLER, WHO HAS SIMILARLY SPOKEN TO A NUMBER OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS (HE ONLY GOT AROUND TO ME TODAY BECAUSE I HAD BEEN IN SOUTH AND WEST AUSTRALIA FOR THE PAST 9 DAYS) SAYS THAT HE HAS HAD A SYMPATHETIC HEARING FROM JUST ABOUT EVERYONE, WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 05394 290319Z

THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF TWO OR THREE CABINET MINISTERS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

AND THE EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR. THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR WAS COURTEOUS, BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. BY CONTRAST, THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO SHOW FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT. RIETHMULLER HAS NOT APPROACHED PRIMIN WHITLAM.

3. ACCORDING TO RIETHMULLER, A HIGH LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN THE FONOFF AND PRIMIN TOOK PLACE THREE DAYS AGO IN WHICH THIS MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH. DESCHAMPS (AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE NOW BACK ON CONSULTATION) MADE A TELLING PRESENTATION, SUPPORTED BY WALLER AND OTHERS. PRIMIN DECIDED THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD TAKE NO ACTION BEFORE CANADA ACTED. RIETHMULLER NOTED THAT WHITLAM HAS REPEATEDLY STALLED ON THIS ISSUE, RECALLING HIS AMBASSADOR FOR A FIRST-HAND REPORT, THEN SAYING HE WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT ACTION BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AND NOW FALLING BACK ON CANADA. RIETHMULLER FEELS THAT PRIMIN WILL DECIDE TO RESUME NORMAL RELATIONS BUT THAT IT HAS BEEN AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE FOR HIM, AS WELL AS SOME KEY MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY AND THE PRESS.

4. RIETHMULLER WAS IN WELLINGTON THE DAY OF THE COUP, LEARNING ABOUT IT JUST AFTER A MEETING WITH PRIMIN KIRK. HE FOUND THE NEW ZEALANDERS APPROACHABLE AND UNDERSTANDING, BUT HE BELIEVES THE NEW ZEALAND POSITION ON RESUMING NORMAL RELATIONS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH AUSTRALIA.
GREEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER05394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS GREEN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973091/aaaaaaoc.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOA REACTION TO COUP IN CHILE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CI, AS, NZ, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005